

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of

Docket No: Q78051

Takaki SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/689,761

Group Art Unit: 3737

Confirmation No.: 6020

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: October 22, 2003

For: PUNCTURE DIFFICULTY EVALUATING DEVICE

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

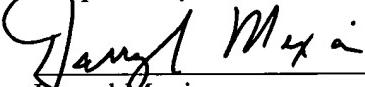
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 10, 2004



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Examiner: [case_examiner]

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/689,761
Attorney Docket No.: Q78051

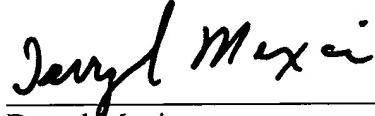
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	10/689,761
		Confirmation Number	6020
		Filing Date	October 22, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Takaki SHIMURA
		Art Unit	3737
		Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	Q78051

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

NON-PATENT EXTRASOURCES DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS: "USER'S GUIDE. PHILIPS SONOS 5500/4500", June 2002, PHILIPS ELECTRONICS U.S.A. XP002268606	
		BRIDAL ET AL.: "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ULTRASONIC ATTENUATION, APPARENT INTEGRATED BACKSCATTER (30 TO 50 MHZ) AND THE COMPOSITION OF ATHEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE" ACOUSTICAL IMAGING, vol. 23, 13-16 April 1997, pages 181-186, XP001172969	

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.